

of interest in programs of leisure-time pursuits and adequate recreational facilities has been due largely to the educational and promotional work of the Recreation Commission. Negroes have shared in the improved programs of leisure-time activities and in the expanded and newly constructed recreational facilities. However, with all of the progress that has been made, adequate recreation facilities and programs have not been considered necessary in some communities. The general thinking apparently has been that problems in these communities -- problems that organized recreation might help solve -- are not worthy of too much attention or important enough to demand a solution.

If recreation, leisure activities, and character-building programs and agencies build character; if "preventive" work prevents; if all of these activities and agencies are good curative measures, then the inadequate number of programs and activities provided or available for Negroes in North Carolina should help to explain some of the problems of social disorganization and maladjustment existing among the race. High crime and juvenile delinquency rates among Negroes reflect frustration and maladjustment and indicate, among other things, a need for more outlets for recreation and spontaneous expression for the group.

There should be more constructive public recreational programs for both races in North Carolina, and especially for Negroes. Even if the Negro succeeds in obtaining a good job, a healthy place to live, a satisfying religious experience, and opportunity for mental growth, still there is something lacking if he does not have opportunity for profitable enjoyment of his leisure time. Important as this is for adults, it is even more necessary for Negro children.

FACTS CONCERNING RECREATION

1. In 1939, Jones Lake, located in Bladen County, was opened as a State Park for Negroes. Between 1939 and 1944 the State made little effort to improve this park. Between 1944 and 1954 this 1,000 acre park area was improved through the expenditure of \$76,355 of State funds. The improvements included a combination pier and boathouse, boats, picnic grounds, and replacement of the old sewage disposal and water supply system. This park operates largely in summer months. The State employs a full-time, year-round ranger to supervise the area. During the summer months, lifeguards and concession operators are employed.